PERIODICO EN ESPAÑOL ADENTRO

CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM · LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO · PLP

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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DoE's toxic racism

Protect students, fight back!

NEW YORK CITY, February 12—Students, parents and teachers united at a Brooklyn high school to call out the racist Department of Education (DoE) after they tried to cover up a dangerously slow response to a gas leak. For over an hour, gas leaked from a pipe in the stairwell before DOE officials evacuated the mainly Black school. Many could have died, and this dangerous fact showed the school community that the racist, capitalist education bosses really don't care about our lives!

School administrators listened to the advice of one of the DOE's higher-ups, to not evacuate, believing that it might be the custodians refueling snow plowers. Despite common sense and known protocol to evacuate and then investigate when there is a strong gas smell, staff and students were held inside classrooms and told to open windows when staff and students reported feeling ill.

Workers' instincts vs reliance on the bosses

Our school community followed orders, erroneously putting faith in the racist school bosses instead of following our instinct to protect each other and evacuating immediately. Many agree that the lesson to be drawn is to not trust the bosses by blindly following orders. Staff promised that next time, they would evacuate their students regardless of what the bosses say. This racist attack, as many students and parents correctly noted, would not have occurred if the students were non working class and non-white.

To add insult to injury, when we were finally evacuated, school safety (run by the NYPD) told us not to cross the street or evacuate to a nearby school, putting us once again in harm's way. Fortunately this time, staff smartened up and decided to take matters into their own hands. Many staff started blocking traffic themselves so that our population of approximately 1,500 students could cross to safety. One staff member was bumped by a car as he tried to stop oncoming traffic. It became very clear that workers' instinct to protect our kids, not reliance on the bosses' expertise was what was going to keep students safe.Despite this extremely dangerous situation, there was no sign of NYPD at the evacuation scene. One parent later pointed out how a few months ago, 11 cop cars and vans had rushed to the school to intimidate a group of about 100 parents and students peacefully protesting the removal of three respected and loved football coaches, but were nowhere to be seen when they were needed to protect our students. This was another lesson for the school community. The primary role of the police is to protect this racist, unequal system, not to protect the working class.

When the building was finally deemed safe by the fire department, the DOE stooges once again managed to turn re-entering the school into another dangerous situation. Instead of following usual protocol to reenter the building using three separate entrances to expedite the process, only one entrance was used; keeping these young people, some

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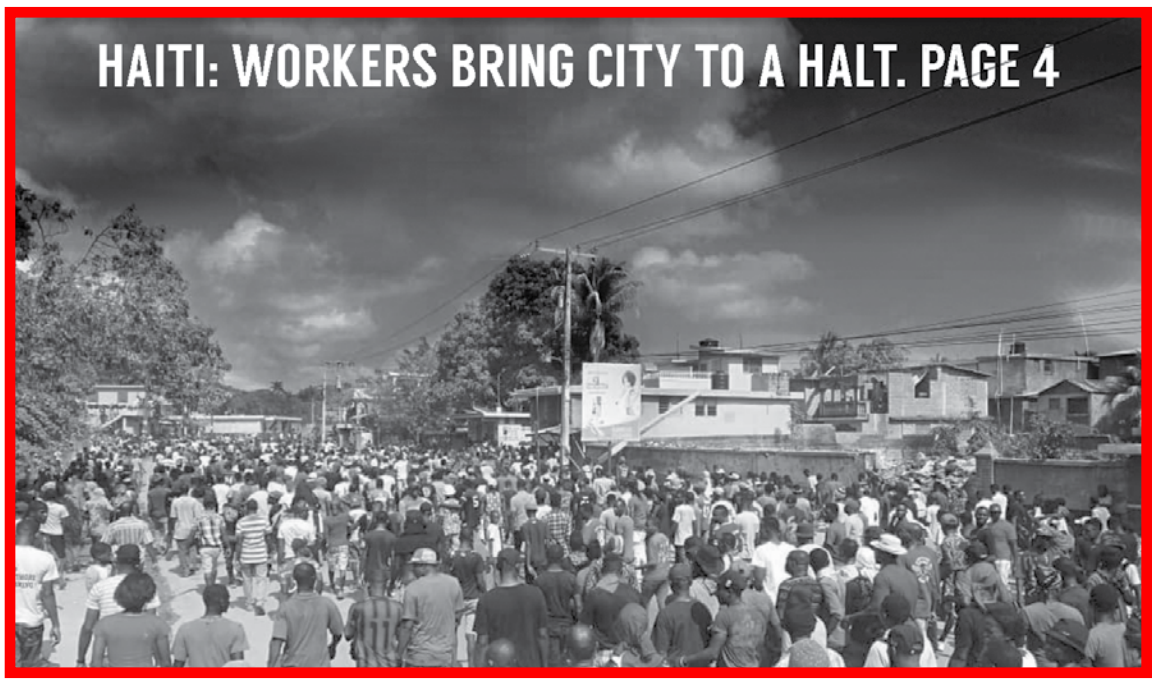

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OUR FIGHT

✰Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

✰The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

✰Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

✰While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

✰Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

✰Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

✰Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

✰Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

✰Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

✰Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

Israeli elections: fight between fascists

With six weeks left in his re-election campaign, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is about to be indicted on charges of bribery and "breach of trust." The embattled, U.S.-led liberal world order needs a change to sustain its control over Israel, its strategic bulwark against Iran, the pro-Iran regime in Syria, and the threat of expanding Russian influence in the oil-rich Middle East. Netanyahu's open fascism and racism, on top of his petty corruption and divisive style, no longer serves the liberal racist bosses' interests in the region.

The final straw may have been Netanyahu's desperate bid to stay in power by forging an alliance with the Nazi-inspired Otzma Yehudit, or Jewish Power. The disciples of Meir Kahane's outlawed, anti-Arab terrorist Kach Party, Jewish Power calls for the ethnic cleansing of Arabs from the state of Israel and its occupied territories, vigilante violence against Arab workers, and bans on marriages between Arabs and Jews. On top of that, Netanyahu brokered a merger between Jewish Power and two other extreme right-wing parties, Jewish Home and National Union. Netanyahu "'splits the nation,' said Yehuda Ben Meir, an expert in public opinion at the Institute for National Security Studies in Tel Aviv. 'His are the politics of polarization and exaggeration. If he got any more polarizing he'd fall off the planet'" (New York Times, 3/1).

This presents a problem for Israel's capitalist rulers, who need more unity among Jewish workers even as they divide Jewish and Arab workers with anti-Arab racism. The self-serving Netanyahu makes it harder for Israel's ruling class to justify its settlement land grabs, daily atrocities against workers and children in the occupied West Bank, indiscriminate killing of protesters, and, in collaboration with Egypt's fascist bosses, the economic strangulation of Gaza. Israeli security forces have arrested and detained hundreds of Arab children "suspected of criminal offenses, usually stone-throwing, often using unnecessary force, questioned them without a family member present, and made them sign confessions in Hebrew, which most did not understand" (Human Rights Watch, World Report 2018).

U.S. rulers divided

The Donald Trump administration continues to back Netanyahu and his openly fascist allies. After moving the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in December 2017, the U.S. State Department announced that the Palestinian Mission will now be housed in the Israeli embassy (NYT, 3/3). Palestinian workers see this as a step toward supporting a single Jewish state throughout Palestine-Israel, a permanent "one-state" solution designed to oppress and isolate Arab workers.

The main wing of the U.S. ruling class, representing finance capital, needs a more stable Israel to keep Russia and China from gaining a stronger foothold in the region. These bosses want to downplay calls for genocide of the Palestinian working class in favor of promoting unity against Iran.

Liberals are the main danger

"Centrist" candidates Benny Gantz and Yair Lapid have combined their campaigns into a single slate to unseat Netanyahu. Currently leading in the polls, Gantz is a war criminal (Haaretz, 2/1) who led the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) in Operation Protective Edge, its 2014 massacre of thousands of workers and children in Gaza. According to the United Nations, two-thirds of those killed were civilians. More than a thousand children were left permanently disabled (Defence for Children International-Palestine, April 2015). Thousands of homes were destroyed.

Gantz took a strong stand against growing numbers of Iranian troops threatening Israel in Lebanon, Syria, and Gaza. His rabidly nationalist Blue and White Party—named after the colors of Israel's flag—has vowed to pursue a military solution with help from the U.S. (Jerusalem Post, 3/4). Gantz has vowed "never" to withdraw from the Golan Heights, which Israel seized after the Six Day War in 1967. He is ready to form a "unity" government with Netanyahu's Likud party and anyone else "who is Zionist and sane" (Haaretz, 3/4).The party's platform pledges to "deepen the processes of separation from the Palestinians, while uncompromisingly protecting the security interests of the country and the Israeli army's freedom of action everywhere." It also promises to "strengthen the [West Bank] settlement blocs and enable normal life anywhere Israelis live," with no further settlement "disengagement" (Haaretz, 3/6).

In other words, Gantz is committed to legalized racism, institutional fascism, and state-sponsored terrorism against Arab workers and children. The difference between Netanyahu and Gantz is the difference between Trump and Hillary Clinton, or between Trump and Barack Obama. While they may serve different factions of their capitalist ruling class, and employ different racist or imperialist strategies, they are all murderous enemies of the international working class.

Jewish State = death of Palestinian Workers

A racist, fascist Jewish state is the ultimate outcome of identity politics and a massive loss for the international working class. The ultimate goal of identity politics is to divide the working class by ethnicity, nationality, or the mythology of "race." It misleads workers into believing they have more in common with their identity group's bosses than with the international working class. It is an especially dangerous trap for workers in Palestine-Israel. With the Arab population about to surpass the Jewish population in the whole of Israel and the occupied territories (Reuters, 3/26/18), the Jewish bosses will have only two ways to sustain a Jewish state: permanent apartheid, where Arab workers essentially live as powerless refugees in the land where they were born (the "centrist" solution), or mass expulsion or extermination of Arab workers (the Jewish Power solution). Last November's demolition of 21 storefronts in the Shuafat Refugee Camp in East Jerusalem may be a sign of things to come.

Only communism can free workers

Capitalism inevitably leads to war over land, workers, and limited natural resources. The rulers use racism, sexism, nationalism, and fascism to divide workers to extract maximum profits and keep us from fighting back. Workers around the world have a material basis for unity. We create all the wealth, maintain all the infrastructure, and fight all the wars. We help each other in times of crisis. All workers must unite to fight for the only "one-state" solution that can meet their needs: a communist workers' state. Progressive Labor Party must organize now to turn the bosses' imperialist wars into revolutionary wars for communism. Join us!✪

Black workers key to communist revolution

CHICAGO, March 1—Over 80 Progressive Labor Party (PLP) comrades and friends celebrated our second annual Black and Red Dinner on the city's South Side this evening. Through a variety of different games, performances, and speeches, the multiracial, multi-generational audience was able to learn more about the vital contributions of Black communists to the struggle against racist capitalism.

But far from being just a history lesson, the event stressed the present reality of the Black working class remaining a key revolutionary force on an international level. Those sections of the working class most oppressed and exploited by capitalism have always had some of the highest stakes in seeing this rotten profit system destroyed. By emphasizing their militancy and leadership as a part of a mass PLP, the prospects for communist revolution become bright!

Revolutionary history and struggle come alive

The event kicked off with a historical scavenger hunt. Posted at various points around the room were pictures and stories of Black communist leaders and the struggles they were involved in. Participants paired up in teams in order to answer trivia questions. Following this, a young Black worker shook the audience with a fiery and creative remix of Black communist poet Langston Hughes' *Good Morning, Revolution.* Later in the program we saw two talented young Black women perform their own rap verses and spoken word that challenged the widespread alienation, violence, and sexism that saturate the capitalist system.

Black PLP comrades also gave speeches about the process that led them to become communists, and specifically what it means for them to be communists in PLP. They highlighted the importance of criticism and self-criticism, multi-racial working-class unity, internationalism, and anti-racist fightback, including the need for revolutionary violence, as primary themes in the struggle for communism and workers' power.

The event was capped off with a keynote speech by a Party high school teacher, who emphasized the PLP line of Black workers being a key revolutionary force. In front of a few dozen of her mostly Black and Latin students, she explained the process by which the racism created by the U.S. bosses during the colonial period was soon exported around the world with the rise of capitalism. But even as racist oppression and exploitation rose internationally, she highlighted the never-ending fightback of workers of color, a fightback that continues to educate and inspire to the present day.

Communism and anti-racism go hand-in-hand

The idea for a Black and Red event came from comrades' experiences within the mass movement, where among many Black activists there can be a strong attitude of incompatibility between struggles against racism and the fight for communist revolution. The revolutionary politics of communism often get incorrectly lumped into the category of an overwhelmingly white and male ideology.

The reality couldn't be farther from it. In the wake of the October Revolution of 1917, when Vladimir Lenin and the Bolshevik Party seized power from the Russian bosses and created the first workers' state in history, the revolutionary science of Marxism-Leninism was applied to workers' struggles against racism and imperialism in countries as diverse as Haiti, Mexico, Ethiopia, and South Africa. Workers from these countries and beyond were able to harness a communist class analysis and strategy to wage a more effective struggle against the bosses' racism and exploitation.

What's more, communist leadership in building a mass anti-racist campaign in defense of the Scottsboro boys in the 1930s, (a case in which nine Black youth were unjustly charged with the raping two white women). Black workers were at the forefront of unemployment and anti-eviction councils during the Great Depression. They were also instrumental defeating the vile Nazis and their fascist "master race" ideology during World War II. All these actions and more reinforced the fact that a struggle for communism was a struggle against racism.

To this end, many Black leaders became committed communists. Paul Robeson, Lorraine Hansberry, W.E.B. DuBois, Claudia Jones and many others recognized and fought for an egalitarian communist society as the only means to eradicate the scourge of racism from the earth.

The racist capitalist bosses and their bourgeois historians have worked hard to erase this history of multi-racial communist unity and struggle, precisely because it directly challenges their ability to divide workers based on race, exploit certain groups at a higher rate than others, and maintain their class power.

Communism will triumph through Black leadership

But despite the bosses' best efforts, they won't succeed in erasing the essential leadership of Black workers to the revolutionary communist struggle. Events like the Black and Red Dinner are important to counter their watering down of our history while educating and inspiring the current generation of a multi-racial working class movement.

W.E.B. DuBois is quoted as saying, "In the end, communism will triumph. I want to help bring that day." Then, as now, understanding and promoting the importance of Black communist leadership will bring our collective liberation all the sooner.✪

Good Morning Revolution 2019

Good Morning, Revolution
Wanted to say
That I admire you
You the beacon of hope
That keeps us pushing
When enough is enough
And we feel like giving up
The drive
That keeps our wheels spinning
Whenever we feel stuck
You've always been in the side
Of the working class
Understanding the importance
Of hustle and muscle
And whenever they started to fuss
It was you that pulled us
Out of every recession
Taught us to make
Impressions out of depression
You are the reason
Nations were birthed
Because you're an architect
Teacher
Preacher
Universal motivational speaker
You constantly challenge the worst
Showing each individual self worth
Forcing them to work as a collective
And for that
I thank you
Because I know
Your journey hasn't always been easy
So I guess
I can call you
The poster child for perseverance
Because what's resistance
If you need clearance
The reason we remember the legacy of every martyr
Fakes have tried to capitalize
On your name
But their jurisdiction
Stops at their dollar
I look at you and know
The fight will never end
For all these reason
I'm happy to call you
A mentor
A role model
And a friend
I salute you revolution

poem composed and performed by young Black student-artist at the event

DoE's toxic racism protect students, fight back!

Continued from page 1

without coats, outside in the snow for almost an extra hour.

In keeping with a long-standing and damaging racist culture of over-policing and scanning Black youth, hundreds of students waited on the slippery steps in the snow and hail to be scanned. Two students were taken by Emergency Medical Services due to asthma/panic attacks as the situation unfolded.

Parent-student-worker unity

Students, staff, and parents outraged at the handling of this situation, organized to demand answers. The three staff union chapters met to discuss next steps, including how to act in a future situation and organizing a political response. An angry letter calling out the DOE's racism and lack of care for students and staff was drafted, approved, and sent to the mayor and the school's chancellor.

This was the first time in almost a decade that all three union chapters met together, which was a step towards fighting the alienation between staff that has been created with the small schools movement. There was some struggle over fighting backward anti-parent and anti-student ideas amongst campus staff. Some teachers felt parents and students would not be willing to or even capable of organizing a response. Yet these teachers were proven wrong when several parents wrote scathing letters, came up to school to question why their children's lives were not taken seriously, and boldly spoke up at a "safety" meeting organized by the school administration.

When DOE representatives tried to blame staff's lack of training in emergency situations for what happened, parents and teachers openly called out the DOE for trying to cover up their racist disregard for students' safety. An alliance between parents, students, and staff is essential to defeating the racist bosses. The bosses intentionally try to divide us and when we unite, it strikes fear in the bosses.

The lesson of the day was that students, staff, and parents need to rely on each other and not the bosses to ensure our survival. We don't need the bosses, and trusting them could prove deadly. ✪

Haiti: Workers fed up, bring system to a halt

Workers and students take to the streets, blocking all movement. They demand jobs and an end to bosses' corrupt government.

Haiti, March 3—It's been close to a month since the first uprising of 2019 with masses of working class people rising up against the capitalist system. Recalling a history of the first Black people to successfully fight back against capitalist slavery and colonialism (1804 Haitian Revolution), today, in the streets and through social media, workers and students call for an end to a system of inequality. For several days, starting on February 7, the anniversary of the fall of the hated Duvalier dictatorship in 1986, to February 18, a series of mobilizations shut everything down: roads were barricaded, no transport moved, businesses closed. An estimated two million people in every corner from big cities to small "sections rurales" (hamlets) were in the streets.

The demands, at heart, were anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist, calling out in particular France and the U.S. who are responsible for the impoverishment of the masses through their economic and political stranglehold of the country. The demonstrators called for the departure of politicians in power, for jobs and better living conditions, and jail for those who stole from the masses in the PetroCaribe gasoline scandal. It is more and more clear that the whole damn capitalist system has to go. The working class needs communism.

Let us not imply that we are on the cusp of revolution here. There are many in the mass movement who just don't really get it. In one demonstration, video cameras caught numbers of young people shouting, "Putin yes, U.S.A. no!" The enemy of our enemy is not our friend! Capitalists are always in competition with one another to gain more power for themselves; their rivalry is always at the expense of the workers. In some social media posts, there was a calling out and mocking of those who think they are part of the middle class, noting they supported the class in power even though they themselves didn't have a working toilet or drove a tenth-hand car. There is a lot of opportunism inside the movement, "what's in it for me?" This way of thinking is promoted by the bourgeoisie because it divides our movement. It will be stamped out as revolutionary class consciousness grows among the masses and the Progressive Labor Party(PLP) grows in influence. Our goal is to lead class struggle and lead the working class to seize state power and establish a communist egalitarian system.

In general, working people here are fed up with misery. During an agitational rally organized by the Party in a provincial city we got a very positive response. In a public market, both vendors and shoppers shouted, "We can't continue like this, life is too expensive, we can't feed our children, this has to change!"

Thanks to these mobilizations, PLP has yet another opportunity to struggle around the necessity for communist revolution as the only way to end exploitation and misery. People are becoming more class conscious, more interested in knowing who the ruling class is and how they work. In fact, many people are using social media to circulate the names, the companies, the fields of activities, the political implications and the history of the small group of bourgeois who "keep us in the misery, who starve us as they get fat," as the demonstrators say.

In the working class areas, people are regaining confidence in their ability to defeat the system. Witness the cancellation of most carnival celebrations. The people are saying, "no, we will not dance as garbage fills the streets, because we are hungry, we will not dance on the blood of those murdered in the struggle, we will not dance when there are no hospitals to receive our sick and wounded, let alone with a corrupt president in power."

Our Party invites you to take part in advancing class struggle everywhere to end capitalism and to establish communism. March with us on May Day 2019 and put another nail in the bosses' coffin! ✪

Refugees from Venezuela face racist & sexist misery

COLOMBIA—The capitalists' strategy, based on sexism, individualism, nationalism, racism—basically everything that can keep us divided and oppressed—is manifested in our daily life. Without realizing it, we fall into this trap by taking positions that delay the revolutionary struggle for a better world. In the case of racism, it manifests itself in many workers from Colombia, who, forgetting their miserable situation, look and speak contemptuously of workers from Venezuela who have immigrated to Colombia these days.

Sexism and racism are manifested in frequent comments to these proletarians, blaming them for the current wave of crime, insecurity, and prostitution, as well as lowering wages and stealing work. In the place where I work, I have discussed issues with my coworkers, making them see that in the past many workers from Colombia immigrated to Venezuela, trying to escape from the bosses' war and seeking to improve their economic situation and but returning empty-handed, just like that many who have sought the "American dream," only to suffer from wage slavery and racist oppression. Therefore, capitalism keeps us fleeing and trying to escape from its prison by looking for "better bosses."There are also conscious comrades who state that nationalism only serves the capitalist politicians, who use it to divide and exploit us, and that only uniting with the working class and promoting proletarian internationalism can help us improve our situation. It is our duty to support ourselves without looking at nationality. But it is essential that this international working-class unity is politically oriented to fight against our class enemies, the capitalists all over the world.

For that, it's necessary to spread the revolutionary politics of Progressive Labor Party and its newspaper CHALLENGE, as an ideological weapon that allows us to initiate the struggle in an organized way, for the destruction of warmongering, oppression, and unnatural imperialism, and the building of communism. Communism is our most natural way of living in a dignified manner, away from all the capitalist scourges, economic crises, and onslaught against workers. Fights against the bosses by the workers give us great opportunities to unite to defeat nationalism, racism, sexism, and individualism as we build an international working-class base for communist revolution.✪

KCC: Class struggle is back in session

BROOKLYN, NY March 1— As the 274,000 students and 29,000 faculty and staff across the City University of New York (CUNY) were on winter break, thousands of custodians, custodial assistants, laborers and mechanics who make the students' learning conditions possible continued working in intolerable working conditions.

New York State and the CUNY bosses claim there's no money to improve either learning or working conditions. That's capitalism for you: no money for education but plenty for corporate welfare. And it's not just Amazon, many corporations get tax breaks and there's lots of money for prisons.

At Kingsborough Community College (KCC) the fightback is growing. Strong relationships, CHALLENGE networks, and increasingly politicized friendships among multiracial, immigrant and native-born students, workers and faculty offer a glimpse of a united working class with a communist understanding that capitalism is not working for workers and students. We need a revolution!

Contingent vs. full-time: divide and conquer

Among faculty, the bosses have reduced full timers to 40 percent; the rest are adjunct faculty. Adjuncts are hired on a temporary, on-demand basis without the pay, benefits, or job security of tenured faculty (see CHALLENGE, 12/19/18).

At the same time, the bosses made a similar attack on campus workers, with even more devastating and racist results. Years ago, KCC began hiring custodial staff under the job title of "custodial assistants," not full custodians, so they could pay them less. Then they limited their hours to just under the minimum threshold of 37.5 per week to prevent them from reaching full-time status with full benefits.

Custodial assistants make $16 per hour; full custodians make around $20 per hour. According to a recent study, on a single income, wages in New York City must be at least $29.96 an hour to afford a one-bedroom apartment, and $34.40/ hour to rent the more common two-bedroom, with similar numbers for New Jersey (NBC New York, 6/18/18). At $16 per hour, custodial assistants must work about 93 hours a week, all 52-weeks to cover rent and basic expenses. At $20/hour, they still must work 74 hours a week, nearly two full-time jobs. But again, KCC workers are prevented from ever reaching full-time status. And so workers suffer, facilities like bathrooms flood daily and buildings literally crumble around the students.

Union misleaders keep the bosses' peace

Every day, KCC bosses order the custodial assistants to work outside of their title to perform the necessary duties of higher paid, full custodians. Workers who complain to their union District Council 37 (DC37) representatives are told to not be insubordinate, to follow bosses' orders, and grieve it later. Grievances take time to file and don't go anywhere. Workers don't even bother–they know the union is on the side of the bosses. The union only notices them during elections to "get out the vote" for Democrats.

As budget shortfalls hit KCC last year, more than one-third of the custodial staff either retired or quit. Workers had to speed up and work extra details, and DC 37 did nothing. This year, the new custodial assistants being hired are exploited even more, working even fewer hours, and facing summary termination.

When communists led unions they were militant, fighting organizations, much more than today. But whether then or now, the bosses constantly grind us down, taking away our hard fought victories. As we fight for better pay for adjuncts ($7K per class) or better conditions for custodians, join the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) in fighting for a communist world.

Organize, strike, revolt

At KCC the new third wave of even more highly exploited custodians follows increasing numbers of "Continuing Ed Teachers" (CETs) among faculty who teach vital (and profitable) programs such as ESL. While they are members of the Professional Staff Congress (PSC) union, they are barred from using facilities like the KCC library and gym, and are paid even worse than the adjuncts. Under capitalism the drive to lower wages everywhere is relentless. At KCC, our growing relationships among groups of students, faculty and workers and the antiracist struggles are gradually changing the atmosphere, and some workers feel freer to express solidarity and voice their own grievances. KCC custodial and cafeteria workers, students and adjuncts,CET faculty, and PLer's are all part of the working class, and are struggling against the same enemy to strengthen working class unity.

PLP supports the adjunct organizing around the demand for $7,000 per class or strike. The strike is a powerful weapon, as workers from Chicago to India keep proving. Whether students succeed in organizing to terminate racist administrators, or adjuncts succeed in organizing a CUNY-wide strike around 7K for adjuncts, we win by fighting now to make our lives better and fighting over the long haul for a better worl–communism.

Armed with communist ideas and CHALLENGE, let's recruit many more workers and students worldwide into an army to smash racism, sexism, and imperialism once and for all with communist revolution. This spring semester, class struggle is back in session.✪

Solidarity at the border, to smash all borders

Since Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members have returned from volunteering in the New Sanctuary Caravan Project at the U.S.-Mexico border in January, we are upping our efforts to build an international immigration campaign. Our goal is to recruit more people to go to the border to provide direct aid and to win many volunteers and refugees to see that a world without borders is possible. Many ties were made between refugees and volunteers. We developed these bonds with the understanding that workers around the world are all in this together, that we all have the same enemy and must unite to fight racism whenever it raises its ugly head.

Friendships and commitments were made that went beyond our short stay at the border. Volunteers became sponsors for people with no ties to family or friends in the U.S. (having a U.S. citizen sponsor is a plus in seeking asylum). The migrants received pro bono immigration lawyers. The working class of Tijuana also rose to the occasion, sharing whatever they had–food, clothes, and sometimes a place to sleep or to shower.

Meanwhile, the fascist U.S. President Donald Trump and the "Socialist" Mexican President Obrador are working together to stem the flow of refugees. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials have prevented journalists, organizers, and volunteers from crossing the border, questioning them and holding them in detention for hours. Two U.S. attorneys working with the Tijuana-based group Al Otro Lado were denied entry into Mexico (San Diego Tribune, 2/11). And nine members of the borderland faith-based organization, No More Deaths, were arrested for the "crime" of leaving jugs of water and cans of beans for migrants passing through the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge in Arizona, where more than 3,000 people have died making their way north on foot since 2000 (The Intercept, 1/17).

Volunteers in the Caravan Project learned many important lessons. With no paid staff, no office space, and minimal resources–we were part of a 40-day campaign that attracted hundreds of volunteers, including local immigrant rights organizations and churches, who provided extensive assistance to thousands of refugees, including preparing asylum applications, food preparation and serving, transportation, childcare, health clinics, and other services needed by a community.

Caravan volunteers, who reported on their experiences at a National Writers' Union forum, will report back at a local church in March and plan to speak on campuses and to community organizations. Our PLP club is organizing a study group on immigration and planning a fundraiser to help refugees, both at the border and when they settle in new homes. Understanding how imperialist states have historically created "borders" to justify ownership of resources, control the wages and movement of labor, and divide workers across borders by promoting "nationalism" and "racism" are all goals of the study group. We are also planning a dinner to build for the PLP May Day march on May 4. These activities are important elements toward building the ties and deepening understanding of how to bring about a communist society to smash all borders!

In short, the work at the border is a small school for communism. For cynics who claim that a society cannot function without money, the international village in Tijuana disproves that idea. The thousands of people fleeing Central America and the hundreds of volunteers coming to greet them are experiencing directly what it means to make decisions and allocate resources and human energy based on what the working class needs. The international solidarity and international friendships being forged show the potential of creating an egalitarian communist society to serve the needs of the all workers. While U.S. and Mexican bosses are united in attacking the refugees and immigrant workers, we propose an international Summer Project, for PLP members and friends to unite our class, the workers, on both sides of the US/Mexico border. One World, One Working Class, One Party! Join us.✪

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Prez rally: liberals still main danger

In Cambridge, MA, on Presidents' Day, organizations tied to the Democratic Party held protests all over the country against president Donald Trump's declaration of a National Emergency on the Mexican border. This latest outrage shows how far Trump will go to hold onto his base, and how the Democrats are eagerly trying to steer his opponents into their camp. PLP members were there, too, with our line— It's not just Trump, it's capitalism! Smash the borders! And, don't fall for sweet-talking Democrats.

More than 100 people gathered in the falling snow in Harvard Square to hold signs and listen to speakers. Ayanna Pressley, one of the new young Black women elected to Congress last November, spoke to the crowd about Trump's "constitutional vandalism" and abuse of power. These new Democratic Party hopefuls opportunistically defend the U.S. constitution and spread the illusion that somehow things have gone drastically wrong under Trump. The fact is things have been drastically wrong for most of us all along before and after the constitution was written. This new wave of Democrats ignores the run of fatal failures of social democracy around the world, the latest in Venezuela. Refusing to put their confidence in the working class, their role is to keep us tied to capitalism. They disarm our class while fascism grows.

Progressive Labor Party members had success talking to many young people in the crowd. Most were interested about how the purpose of borders is to keep rich countries rich and poor countries poor and how the Democrats lay a trap for us by defending borders and a profit driven system. We made some contacts and have followed up. We should never underestimate the importance of showing up and fighting for the line.

★★★★★

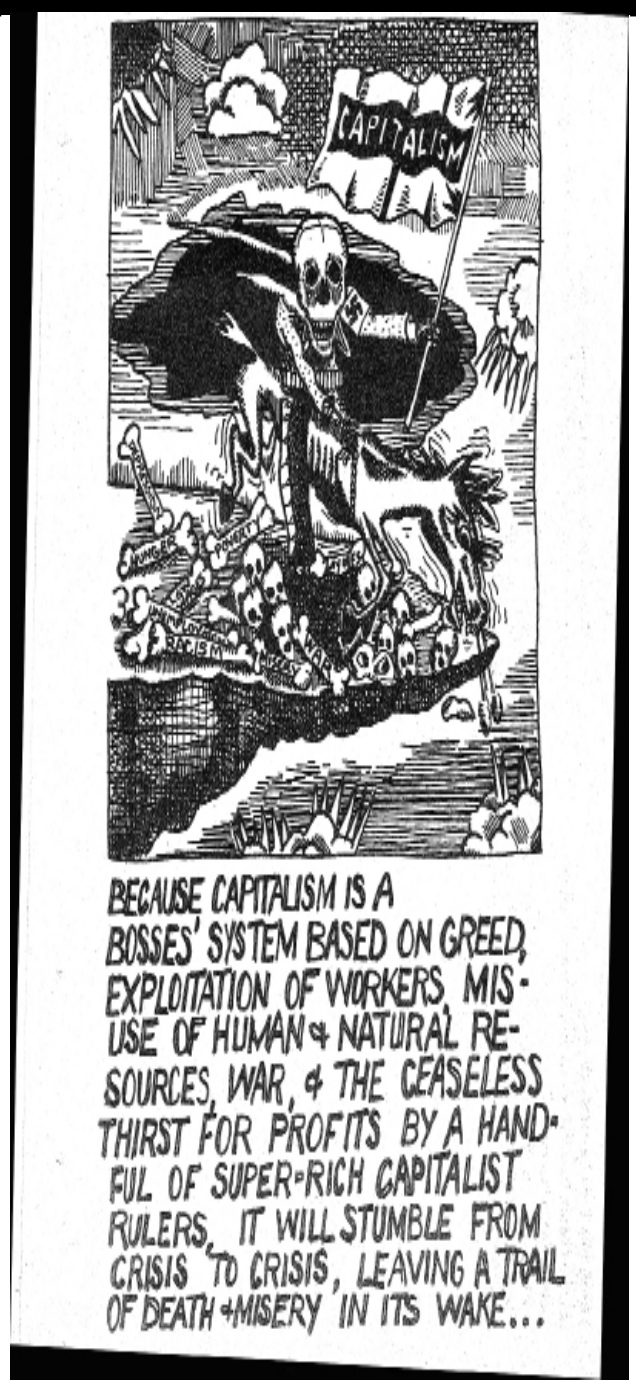
On the Venezuela editorial

Regarding the editorial on the U.S. imperialist plan to overthrow the government of Venezuela (CHALLENGE, 2/20). We agree that social democracy will not free the working class from wage slavery and all of its attendant horrors.

However, many people whom we must win to PLP and communist revolution presently believe in social democracy. Often, social democratic leaders are conscious tools of one section or another of the capitalist class. In the case of rival imperialisms, social democrats frequently align with one group of imperialists in opposition to another group that supports the more rightwing neoliberal openly fascistic ruling class representatives. These points must be carefully explained and documented to the social democratic base if we are to win them from their illusions that social democracy provides a path to free the working class from domestic capitalist and imperialist oppression. The editorial does not do this.

In fact, the editorial at times by implication seems to support the U.S. imperialist plan to overthrow this phony "socialist, running an intensely nationalist and impoverished military state under the murderous rule of Maduro and his drug-trafficking cronies.Two million people have fled the country since 2015, nearly 5000/day. Millions more are facing acute shortages of medicine and food, skyrocketing inflation rates and a brutal crackdown on protests." Who could possibly be opposed to regime change when all of this and more is going on! Is the point we want to make about social democracy and its dangers to the working class helped by parroting the bourgeois propaganda machine?

On the other side, the editorial implies that Guaidó arose out of thin air."With the rise of Guaidó and mass opposition to the corrupt and disastrous Maduro regime…"Guaidó is a puppet of U.S. imperialism. He has been meeting with Pence, Pompeo, and Bolton. Elliot Abrams, who was U.S. imperialism's murderous point man in Central America in the 1980s, is deeply involved. U.S. imperialism has been using its control of the world's financial market to strangle the Venezuelan economy. Sanctions, undermining the currency, and manipulation of the price of commodities, particularly oil, have been used to build discontent among the population.



The editorial acknowledges this in one paragraph but writes as if the attempt to undermine the Chavez and Maduro regimes only began with Trump. The editorial references the borgenproject, a pro U.S. government NGO. It references the NY Times, the main media voice of the main wing of the U.S. ruling class.

There is much more that can be said about how bad the Chavez and Maduro regimes were and are. We should show this in a detailed article addressed to people who still believe it is possible to reform capitalism.

Editor's note: We appreciate your vigilance in ensuring political clarity in CHALLENGE. Documenting the Chavez and Maduro regime in great detail is a great idea and we would like you to write it.

The editorial stated, "It is the international working class that stands to suffer most from the capitalists' power struggles…[W]e have nothing to gain from either the imperialist bosses and puppets like Guaidó, or fake left bosses like Maduro and his phony 'socialist' predecessor, Hugo Chavez."

The editorial did a good job in not only attacking every imperialist and ruling-class faction in Venezuela, but also in showing how this is a bipartisan, not a Trumpian, affair. Equating an objective criticism of Maduro to a support for the U.S. bosses is a logical fallacy.

The working class deserves the best possible world, and we think that's communism, so we said so. Friendly capitalism is not good enough. Why? We want the working class and the Party to be the ultimate holder of power. Could we have done a better job in explaining that? Always. Finally, in terms of sourcing: aside from CHALLENGE, the mass capitalist media is what we got. We despise them, but we can still cite them.

★★★★★

When is a law a crime?

When workers come across an arbitrary line on the ground called a "national border," in order to look for jobs to provide their family with the means of survival, or to shield themselves and their children from state or gang terror, they are called "criminals" by the capitalists and their media and politicians. This label is applied merely for coming across the line.

However, when a law is passed that is bad for the working class but good for the capitalist class, the question to be asked is, "Which is the crime? Breaking the law or passing it in the first place?" And "Who is the criminal, the law breaker or the law passer?"

There is a difference between breaking a law and committing a crime. It may be that passing some laws is itself a crime, when it either forces workers to do something against their interests or prevents workers from doing something that is in their interests, such as surviving.German communist poet and playwright Bertolt Brecht once summed up this class-based distinction by saying, "What is the crime of robbing a bank compared to the crime of founding one?" Which actions are crimes and which are not is a class issue; it depends on one's class interest.

It is time for all workers to look upon many capitalist laws as crimes in and of themselves and to hold the politicians who pass these laws to account someday as the criminals they are. There are exceptions, of course, as with virtually everything. Laws that control traffic are in the interests of the working class, just as they are also in the interests of the capitalists, as they help to prevent loss of lives. But every law must be judged on this basis and not simply worshipped as, "Well, it's the law." But laws can be crimes too!

★★★★★

While I was listening to CNN

I was listening to CNN today. They were critiquing president Donald Trump's speech in which he claimed that then president Barack Obama didn't deport "enough" people and that he, Trump, had already deported more people than Obama. The CNN hosts corrected Trump's claim by explaining that Obama deported 3 million people, far more than Trump, and that "people on the left call Obama Deporter in Chief." That got me thinking: does CNN read CHALLENGE?

★★★★★

Israeli racism kills

The virulent Israeli nationalism and anti-Arab racism is justified by worldwide as a response to the Holocaust, the Nazi murder of six million Jewish workers. The Zionist (those who believe in a Jewish state) view is that anti-Semitism is a special category of racism that can never be eliminated, and that Jewish people can only protect themselves by having their own militarized state. They see Arab workers as being subhuman and anti-Semitic, even though Jewish and Arab workers lived together relatively peacefully in the Middle East for centuries.In order to form the state of Israel, most of the Palestinians who were living there, over 750,000, were forcibly expelled around 1948. Those who fled to the West Bank and Gaza have been brutally occupied since 1967. Currently, Israel has been using live ammunition to murder nonviolent protestors in Gaza, who have been holding weekly marches for months to protest the unlivable conditions in that "open air prison." Israel has killed 189 demonstrators, especially targeting health workers and journalists, which the UN Commission of Inquiry has called a war crime.Palestinian nationalism, although more anti-Zionist than anti-Semitic, is also a losing strategy. There is a small movement of Jewish and Palestinian workers calling for "one democratic state." But capitalists run both Israel and Palestine. Whether it's a one state or two state solution, the problem of capitalism still goes unchallenged.

★★★★★

Pharma profiteer Pfizer sickens workers

NEW YORK CITY, March 3—Today 150-200 healthcare workers, medical students, Aids organizers, municipal and CUNY (City University) retirees and others picketed the big Pharma profiteer, Pfizer, and then marched through the streets of midtown Manhattan. Angry chants like "Pfizer's greed kills" and speeches denounced the capitalist medical system which forces millions to choose between food, rent and prescription drugs. In addition, many protesters called for support for a single payer health plan (e.g., Medicare for all, paid by the government) to take "excess" profits out of the hands of healthcare profiteers. While it is important to call out the greedy healthcare industry, we in Progressive Labor Party (PLP) explain that a system that doesn't meet the medical needs of the working class doesn't deserve to exist. In the U.S., Black and Latin workers are the most likely to lack access to quality medical care and needed medications. It was disappointing to see that few Black workers took part in this demonstration, since because of racist conditions, Black and Latin workers face the worst health and health care coverage. Perhaps it was because the union movement was noticeably absent. Union misleaders have opted to divide the working class by merely protecting their members, who have medical and drug coverage, while largely ignoring the needs of workers who do not. Retiree organizers at today's march are fighting against that kind misleadership, which weakens the working class and in effect helps, put more money back into the bosses' pockets.

Some organizers of today's march put forward a divisive chant, "Health care is a right, not just for the rich and white." Instead of equating white workers with their bosses, we should be promoting struggle and unity. At demonstrations to stop hospital closings we've had better chants, such as "Health care is a right, fight fight fight" and "Men and women, Black and white to win better health care we must unite."Moreover even a single tax payer system, or medicare for all will not guarantee good health for all, because under capitalism there is no incentive to maximize the health of anyone who is not working– be it the unemployed, disabled, old, or imprisoned.

Participating in the movement against medical industry profiteers is necessary as we fight to survive in this racist capitalist system and helps us show our friends why communist revolution is needed to insure equal access to medical care.✪

Defend Kevin, expose racist system

MARYLAND, March 6—Twenty five antiracists packed a courtroom yet again to support Kevin Sneed, a Black worker who has been held for two years on bogus charges of attempting to kill a police officer.

Convenience store footage showing his arrest smashes the bosses' racist lies about Sneed. It shows officers climbing in through his car windows, beating Kevin senseless until the car begins to slowly drift when Kevin could no longer hold the brake pedal down. The ruling class and their system never miss a chance to smear workers, especially Black and Latin ones.

While none of the cops who beat Kevin sustained injuries, He was battered and bruised after being pulled over supposedly for a broken tail light. After the story appeared on the local Washington, D.C. area news and in response to several packed hearings, the county prosecutor offered Kevin a deal: plead guilty to disorderly conduct and agree not to file any charges or complaints against the police department!

In this case, grass roots activism by Life after Release, a group in which Progressive Labor Party(PLP) members participate, might help one individual in a sea of racist arrests and prosecutors leaving workers to rot in prison, but in the end, capitalism thrives on perpetuating incarceration and terror among the working class. In a system where cops are praised for arresting innocent Black workers–prosecutors are praised for keeping them behind bars until they plead guilty out of desperation–and a prison system that profits from being filled to the brim, we need more than piecemeal reforms. We need to smash the capitalist system that squeezes profit out of misery and build a system that won't function on racism and money. We need communism, and every day that we don't grow closer to achieving that vision is another day our working class brothers and sisters remain locked behind bars.✪

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Below are excerpts from the capitalist press that may be of use for our readers.
Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times,
GW=Guardian Weekly,
LAT=Los Angeles Times

Bangladesh: 110 murdered in inferno

NYT, 3/1 — The streets were packed when the first explosion ripped through the air. A car powered by compressed natural gas was traveling through a bazaar in Dhaka, Bangladesh's capital, when the cylinder stored in the back exploded. The blast…ignited several other cylinders…at a street-side restaurant….Then a small shop that was illegally storing chemicals burst into flames. Bangladesh, one of Asia's poorest countries, is very crowded…about the same size as Iowa, but with 170 million people, has more than 50 times the population…"This… [is] about greed," said…an architect in Dhaka...

"The people storing these chemicals in residential buildings are rich….By the time the fire brigades quenched the flames…the neighborhood, Chawkbazar, resembled a war zone..None of this is new. In Bangladesh, fire and safety disasters come one after the other...In 2010, more than 120 people died in a Dhaka fire that started when an electrical transformer exploded and ignited chemicals…illegally stored in shops….It is illegal to store dangerous materials…in a residential building. It was later discovered that the factory fire escapes had been very narrow, trapping dozens….More than 115 people, mostly poor factory hands, died. Less than a year after that…an eight-story building in a Dhaka suburb collapsed, killing more than 1,100 people.

U.S. toxic wars breed cancer, netting bosses huge profit$

NYT, 3/2 — When Army Staff Sgt. Samuel Fortune returned from Iraq, his body battered by war….people around him began to get sick. His neighbors, all living near five military bases, complained of tumors, thyroid problems and debilitating fatigue….[and] an unusually high number of kidney cancers in the region.The military…had been leaching toxic chemicals into the water for decades…The Defense Department has admitted that it allowed a firefighting foam to slip into at least 55 drinking water systems at military bases around the globe, sometimes for generations. .All were told, 10 million people could be drinking water laced with high levels of PEAS….Dozens of communities from New York to Washington State discovered their drinking water was also polluted with PEAS….A study of 69,000 people living near a West Virginia DuPont plant, say exposure is associated with kidney cancer, testicular cancer, thyroid disease, high cholesterol and ulcerative colitis…

Iraq war's burn pits exceed Vietnam's Agent Orange diseases, deaths

NYT, 2/13 — Everywhere…in Iraq…the burning trash pits, sometimes…as large as a municipal dump, [are] filled with abandoned or destroyed military vehicles, synthetic piping and discarded combat meals….The smell was horrendous…. About nine years after returning home…[Ryne Robinson] began to suffer headaches and other health problems….After having a seizure while driving…he was told he had glioblastoma, an aggressive brain tumor. Of the ailments endured by generations of veterans [not to mention millions of civilians]…are those related to exposure to toxic substances in Iraq and Afghanistan, especially from…fires known as burn pits….Tens of thousands of those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan were exposed to burn pits, which were regularly used to dispose of refuse in giant dumps ignited by jet fuel. Discarding waste was…especially acute… in locations that had no infrastructure for proper disposal or existing sanitation services….Almost 44 percent of burn-related claims were denied [by the VA] because the condition has not been officially diagnosed...Tens of thousands more veterans…were exposed to the more than 250 burn pits…like…the giant dump at Balad Air Base, where an immense pit burned 24 hours a day….

"I wish they would have told us about this instead of throwing us to the wolves," said [Ryne's wife]...There are also concerns about exposure to depleted uranium, which was used in tank armor….Scores of other veterans and their families have said they believe those toxic substances contributed to their illnesses, many of them fatal… "This is our generation's Agent Orange,"…referring to an herbicide known to sicken veterans in Vietnam….The Supreme Court recently rejected an appeal to hold private companies responsible for burn pits…Dr. Robert Miller of Vanderbilt University….performed surgical biopsies on about 60 veterans' lungs, which…revealed evidence of constructive bronchiolitis, an incurable disease stemming from tiny particles lodged in the airways… The Pentagon…[doesn't] want to take the blame for it," [said Miller]

How rulers' tax laws help rich get mega-rich

NYT, 2/19 — The CEO of Walmart makes about $22 million a year….But the Walton family, descendants of the company's founder, are mind-boggling wealthy. The Bloomberg Billionaires index estimates that Sam Walton's three living children are worth around $45 billion each, putting them each among the 20 wealthiest people in the world. A family that has accumulated enormous wealth can escape with surprisingly low-income levels, and therefore low tax burdens.… Warren Buffett owns enough stock in Berkshire Hathaway to put his estimated net worth at $84 billion, but he pays himself $100,000 a year to be its chief executive. Even in years when his wealth rises by billions, he must pay tax only on his comparatively modest income.

Budding U.S. national socialism, a kiss of fascism

This is the first of a series of articles examining the development of mainstream phony socialists and socialism. Here we explain how this boss-approved "socialism" may in fact be best suited to the political program of liberal fascism and liberal imperialism associated with the main wing of the U.S. ruling class.

Sometimes the best way for capitalists to exercise power is to let the workers vote for "socialists." That is what we are seeing with Bernie Sanders and Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez (also known by her initials AOC) in the United States today. It is also what we have seen from a whole band of "socialists" who have emerged since the 1990s in Latin America and Europe: France has had Jacques François Hollande, Bolivia still has Evo Morales, Brazil has had Lula da Silva, Mexico now has Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador.

For hundreds of millions of class sisters and brothers worldwide over the past 30 years, "socialist" leaders have delivered false hope, rising inequality, mounting climate disaster and growing inter-imperialist rivalry. All of these "socialists" have put the nation with their established ruling classes first, not workers. Workers in the United States ought to expect no different from democratic socialists Sanders and Ocasio-Cortez. The arrival of boss-sponsored socialism in the United States is an important development in world politics but it is nothing new for the international working class. U.S. workers must not be swept away in a new fake-left enthusiasm that cloaks a drive toward fascism and war.

What is socialism? Why now?

The communist pair Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels defined socialism as a phase of human history that comes after a successful workers' revolution. It abolishes exploitation of labor by a profit-driven capitalist class, but retains some class distinctions.

Twentieth century revolutionaries such as Vladmir Lenin and Mao Zedong understood socialism as a stage on the way to communism, a one-class society. Socialism is what was achieved in the Russian and the Chinese revolutions. Socialism was then reversed; communism was not reached (see Road to Revolution III at PLP. org). With president Donald Trump pivoting in his State of the Union to declaring "socialism" a great threat and the (for now) breathless media love affair with Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, we can sense the shift in U.S. political life headed our way.

Bernie and AOC seek to reform capitalism, not replace it. They may in fact be best suited to the political program of liberal fascism and liberal imperialism associated with the main wing of the U.S. ruling class. This (for now) dominant bloc of U.S. capital seeks to preserve the widest possible portion of the globe as a zone of U.S. dominance. This group we contrast with the "Fortress America" wing of the U.S. ruling class who holds the outlook that a domestic political basis of white nationalism is sufficient to sustain a perhaps less expansive but still-dangerous U.S. imperialism, currently configured around and inflamed by Trump. The split within the U.S. ruling class is fought out on the terrain of working-class allegiance. Democratic socialism is the latest gambit on the part of the main wing of the U.S. ruling class to build a mass base for its developing program of war and fascism.

Liberal imperialism

Liberal imperialism is shorthand for the building up of a political culture required to withstand the rigors of a military draft that must necessarily draw on a wide cross-section of U.S. society and to wage war against a major imperialist rival. Multicultural imperialism explains the recent ruling from a Texas judge that a male-only draft is unconstitutional (NY Times 2/24), calls to bring transgender workers into the military, as well as the liberal/Democratic outcry against Trump's announced troop withdrawals from Syria and Afghanistan. Bernie's 2016 trial balloon never got past the limitations of "white socialism," his movement never gained traction among Black and immigrant workers. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's contribution will be to help correct that weakness, though her politics of patriotism are indeed the kiss of death (see box).

Liberal fascism

Waging major war requires giving more workers a country worth dying for (reform) but it also requires, at the same time, "sacrifice" from everyone, including the bosses. In fact, making a show of forcing sacrifice on the rich provides the legitimacy needed when imposing sacrifice on the workers. Trump's temporary work-for-no-pay shutdown is a part of this same ruling-class campaign to build up a political culture of teaching workers to endure sacrifice. Yet recall the marginal tax rates of 90 percent and above levied on the richest bosses during World War II and the Cold War. Trump's cynical, one-sided imposition of sacrifice is of a piece with the runaway separation of a tiny billionaire plutocracy of the Barack Obama years. Neither the Trump nor the Obama presidential style has inspired the sacrificial national unity needed to go to war. AOC's calls for a Green New Deal are the closest thing the ruling class has to reviving the kind of a vigorous program of reform that has made the country 'worth fighting for' in the past.

Future articles will develop this analysis of an emergent American national socialism as a program of multicultural imperialism and liberal fascism. We call for submissions between now and May Day along the lines established above.

PLP, the communist choice

The great opportunity in today's political situation where socialism is on people's minds is in the class struggle—in building multiracial unity against murderous speed-up for transit workers, against fascist deportation and racist police murder, against school segregation, and more. In these fights, communists expose the limits of reform and distinguish revolutionary proletarian internationalism from the poisoned-by-patriotism brand of national socialism that the bosses have placed before our class in the U.S. and around the globe. In the shadow of war, we must expand these class struggles. We can and will lead millions to turn imperialist war into class war and push through to communist victory. Achieving communism remains the aspiration for workers in our many, growing and ultimately overwhelming millions. Fight for communism, Join PLP!

AOC in white: racist slap in the face of Black women workers

During Donald Trump's State of the Union, the women in Congress donned suffragette white surely knowing they were linking themselves to a racist movement that literally placed Black women at the back of their marches so as not to "ruin" their image in their crusade for the vote (NYT 7/28). AOC beamed her winning smile, dressed in white. What kind of political leadership is this, that requires women workers, particularly Black women to endure such racism. Is that AOC's Green New Deal? We all sacrifice. The rich pay more taxes and Black workers suffer more racism? The original New Deal led to World War II and this Green New Deal is preparation for World War III. This is fascism, the notion that we must all sacrifice for a greater "national" good. In reality, this sacrifice is for the ruling class and never serves the working class.

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